

EXHIBIT 2: Letters of Support



State of California - The Resources Agency

GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov>
POST OFFICE BOX 47
YOUNTVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94599
(707) 944-5500



September 10, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, Suite 1100
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Mr. Ken Moore, Research Director
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
The Presidio of San Francisco
Post Office Box 29910
San Francisco, CA 94129-0910

Dear Mr. Morabito and Mr. Moore:

The Department of Fish and Game encourages the State Coastal Conservancy and Moore Foundation to provide funding for Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) to provide technical assistance to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. PRBO has developed a Habitat Conversion Model that can be used to guide decisions on restoration or enhancement of the South Bay ponds. The requested funding would be used to further develop the model to enhance its sensitivity in predicting how best to maximize benefits and minimize impacts to bird species. The refined model will be an important tool in restoration planning for the South Bay Salt Ponds and other sites in San Francisco Bay. The model will also be valuable for illustrating to the public and stakeholders the tradeoffs between bird species in various restoration alternatives.

PRBO was founded in 1965 and is dedicated to conserving birds, other wildlife, and ecosystems through innovative scientific research and outreach. Their highly qualified scientists have developed this Habitat Conversion Model over the past two years, using an extensive amount of data collected by PRBO and other organizations and agencies in the salt ponds and tidal marshes of the South San Francisco Bay. Funding would allow PRBO to:

Conserving California's Wildlife Since 1870

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- identify characteristics of tidal marshes that support maximum bird species diversity and productivity;
- identify optimal salt pond characteristics (such as depth, size, and salinity) so that pond types and configurations can be determined; and
- make recommendations on the overall amount and configuration of tidal marsh and managed ponds in the South Bay.

The Department appreciates your ongoing support for the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and your consideration of this funding request. If you have questions regarding our comments, please contact Mr. Carl Wilcox, Habitat Conservation Supervisor at (707) 944-5525.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Floerke
Regional Manager
Central Coast Region

cc: Margaret Kolar
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge
Post Office Box 524
Newark, CA 94560-0524

Ellie Cohen
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
4990 State Route 1
Stinson Beach, CA 94870

Amy Hutzell
Coastal Conservancy

Nancy Cole
Moore Foundation

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex
P.O. Box 524
Newark, California 94560-0524
(510) 792-0222

September 15, 2003

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chairman
State Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 11th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Mr. Ken Moore, Research Director
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
The Presidio of San Francisco
P.O. Box 29910
San Francisco, California 94129-0910

Dear Mr. Morabito and Mr. Moore;

I am writing in support of State Coastal Conservancy and Moore Foundation funding of a Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) project to assist the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project. PRBO has developed a Habitat Conversion Model to help guide decisions on restoration or enhancement of the South Bay ponds by maximizing benefits and minimizing impacts to bird species. The model can also help to communicate to stakeholders the trade-offs between bird species in various restoration alternatives.

PRBO's scientists developed this Habitat Conversion Model over the past two years using data collected by PRBO and other organizations and agencies in the South Bay salt ponds and tidal marshes. This funding would allow PRBO to refine and utilize this model to:

- Identify characteristics of tidal marshes that support maximum bird species diversity and productivity;
- Identify optimal salt pond characteristics (such as depth, size, and salinity) so that pond types and configurations can be determined; and
- Make recommendations on the overall amount and configuration of tidal marsh and managed ponds in the South Bay.

Thank you for your dedication to the South Bay Salt Pond Restoration Project and for your consideration of this funding request.

Sincerely,

Margaret T. Kolar
Refuge Complex Manager